
10. WINTERIZATION AND STORAGE BMPS

This section outlines management practices recommended for two types of boat storage areas. Both types of storage may contribute to nonpoint sources of pollution through the use of heavy equipment (fork lifts and cranes), as well as through various storage procedures (e.g., use of anti-freeze, battery storage). One type is the traditional storage of boats within the upland area of the marina, either within closed structures or outdoors, under a shrink-wrap cover. This practice is typically used for winter storage.

The other type of storage is "dry rack storage," in which boats are routinely removed from the water between uses, cleaned, and placed in racks until the next use. These types of facilities may reduce the need for in-water structures. Also, because vessels are not constantly sitting in the water, the accumulation of fouling organisms on the hulls is minimized, reducing the need for washing, scraping, and painting. Thus, dry-rack storage can help reduce nonpoint-source pollution.

The following practices will minimize pollution from all winterization-related activities:

- Provide storage facilities to minimize the need for more intensive hull maintenance.
- Avoid installing floor drains in storage structures. Connect any existing floor drains to the sanitary sewer, if available, or to a holding tank (with appropriate permits).
- Do not perform vessel maintenance and repair activities in dry storage areas unless accepted management measures are fully implemented (these are described in "Boat Washing BMPs", "Sanding and Painting BMPs", "Engine and Boat Maintenance and Repair BMPs", and "Hazardous Materials and Wastes BMPs", pages 7-1 through 9-3 and page 11-1).
- Bilges should be inspected and cleaned prior to extended vessel storage. All water, oil, or foreign materials found in the bilge should be cleaned using approved absorbent materials to remove contaminated bilge water. Used absorbents should be disposed in accordance with the chapter on solid waste recycling and disposal, page 13-1. Contaminated bilge water must not be allowed to enter the waters.
- Provide secondary containment for all liquid waste and hazardous material storage areas.
- Fuel tanks should be topped off or emptied and purged as required by the method of storage, and in accordance with applicable codes. The procedures should be performed by qualified personnel.

- In the spring, collect and recycle shrink-wrap used to cover boats during the winter months.
- Prior to lowering a vertical lift or marine railway, the device should be swept clean of all debris. Any oil or hazardous substance should be cleaned up to prevent contamination of the receiving waters.

A Spill Contingency Plan should be developed for each area where hazardous materials are used or stored. This plan should specify potential spill sources, hazardous materials used or stored in the area, prevention measures (e.g. security, inspection, training, equipment), and spill emergency procedures, including health and safety, notification, and spill containment and control measures. A drainage plan should be included as part of the plan.